

WINCANTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1950



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Wincanton,
Somerset.
July, 1951.

To the Rural District Council of Wincanton

Ladies and Gentlemen

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1950.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	64,540
Population (1950)	16,680
Number of inhabited houses (1950)	5,216
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	4,385
Rateable Value (31st March, 1950)	79,234
Net Product of Penny Rate	£314/9/4

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

		Males	Females	
Live Births	Total	118	127	Birth Rate 15.8 per 1000
	Legitimate	115	123	
	Illegitimate	5	7	
Still Births	Total	3	4	Birth Rate 0.37 per 1000
	Legitimate	3	4	
	Illegitimate	0	0	

DEATHS.

Deaths from all causes: Total 216. Males, 111. Females, 105.
Death Rate 11.7 per 1000.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

(a) from sepsis	nil.
(b) from other causes	nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

	Males	Females
Total	5	5
Legitimate	5	5
Illegitimate	0	0

Deaths of Infants under one week	....	....	....	1
„ „ from one to four weeks (inclusive)	....	....	....	5
„ „ from one to six months	....	....	....	3
„ „ from six to twelve months....	....	....	....	1
			Total	10

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	nil
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	....	....	....	nil

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 216, compared with 223 in 1949.

The Chief causes of Death were:—

Old Age	....	....	....	30	Cancer	....	....	29
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	72				Cerebral Haemorrhage			41

In all “Causes of Death”—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were 42

„ „ „ „ „ 81 „ 85 „ 26

„ „ „ „ „ 86 „ 90 „ 20

„ „ over the age of 90 were 10

A total of 98 or 45.37 per cent. of the total Deaths.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	0	0
Measles	94	0	0
Whooping Cough	103	0	0
Pneumonia	12	0	6
Acute Poliomyelitis	5	2	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Tuberculosis:			
(a) Respiratory	15	0	3
(b) Non-Respiratory....	5	0	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case notified.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Measles and Whooping Cough were again somewhat in evidence throughout the District. The type of both diseases was not so mild as usual, but there were no deaths from either.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

A.—Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (1) **General.**—There are nine nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district
- (2) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Some of the cases of infectious diseases were removed to Isolation Hospitals, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

B.—Midwives.

There are nine certified midwives practising in the district.

C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

In Wincanton there is one Tuberculosis Dispensary provided and staffed by the County Council.

D.—Hospitals available for the District.

- (1) **Tuberculosis.**—One at Wincanton.
- (2) **Fever.**—None.
- (3) **Other.**—(a) There is one Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital”, for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.

(b) There is one Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of Maternity cases.

(c) There is a Public Assistance Institution at Wincanton for the aged and infirm under the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council, and the Regional Hospital Board.

E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

The only Institutions for any of the above are the Public Assistance Institution and Rodber House, Wincanton (for boys only), which are under the control of the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council.

F.—Ambulance Facilities.

- (1) **For Infectious Cases.**—None.
- (2) **For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.**—There is a British Red Cross Society Ambulance, staffed by British Red Cross personnel, kept at Castle Cary. In addition Ambulances from Shepton Mallet and Gillingham, Dorset, have been used as occasion requires

H.—Scabies.

No cases have been brought to my notice.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at Messrs. Knight & Sons (Chemists), Wincanton, and is supplied to Practitioners on the National Health Service Prescription Form.

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The Public Health Department consists of The Chief Sanitary Inspector, two additional Sanitary Inspectors, one assistant Sanitary Inspector, two pupils (all whole-time Officers), and myself (a part-time Officer).

There are also two Health Visitors in the District.

8.—WATER SUPPLIES.

(i) The water supplies of the area have been generally satisfactory in quality. There have been shortages in a few districts, and in most others adequate supplies have only been maintained with difficulty.

(ii) The principal shortages reported occurred in Brewham, Charlton Musgrove, Compton Pouncefoot, and in the Bruton area.

(iii) Regular bacteriological examinations have been made of the water supplies with the results set out in the following table:—

PUBLIC SUPPLY.

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
47	11	—	—	49	—	—	—

Water Supplies from Public Mains:—

Direct to the Houses		By means of Standpipes	
No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population
4597	14916	32	106

No. of parishes with piped water supply:—

(i) from public mains 29; (ii) from private reservoirs 5.

No. of parishes without a piped supply of water, Nil.

The Penselwood water includes one hard water, which when mixed with the remainder, reduces the acidity. A liming plant is available for use when required.

No treatment is undertaken at Brewham where it is believed no lead pipes are in use.

At Charlton Musgrove the water is passed over Magnesite.

In all three districts, the use of leadpipes is prohibited.

General Observations.

The proportion of the population supplied from public supplies is high. The demand for both Domestic and Agricultural use tends to increase, and this, together with the shortages arising, and with certain unsatisfactory private systems, indicates a need for a large increase of supply.

Chlorination. Chlorination of the Penselwood (including Wincanton), Templecombe, and Castle Cary supplies has been maintained throughout the year.

Chlorination of the Bruton supply, agreed in principle, has not yet been effected.

(vi) The action taken following unsatisfactory samples was as follows:—

Bruton. The principle of Chlorination has been accepted and the Engineer instructed to advise in detail.

Milborne Port. The purchase of a small protective area near the Bradley Head Springs has been agreed.

Private Supplies.

Ten bacteriological examinations of Private water supplies have been made. Those serving village hamlets or estates, showed the following results:—

Class I.	Highly Satisfactory (B. Coli absent)	3
Class II.	Satisfactory (B. Coli 1—2)	—
Class II.	Satisfactory (B. Coli 1—2)	—
Class III.	Suspicious (B. Coli 3—10)	—
Class IV.	Unsatisfactory (B. Coli 10 plus)....	7
Total		10

No adequate action is practicable until the Public water supply is made available.

Water supplies from wells:—

No. of Samples taken for Analysis			
Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
—	—	—	4

No. of wells in which a piped supply was substituted for well water, 6.

No. of houses relying on well supplies, 80 (estimated).

Improvements of Supply.

A connection was made from the Penselwood main to the Charlton Musgrove mains.

Post War Proposals.

A comprehensive scheme was presented to the Council in

November, 1949. It is impossible to condense such a scheme adequately, but the following is a general indication of the proposals —

Demand.				g.p.d.
Domestic	....	....	....	524200
Agricultural	....	....	....	505400
Industrial	....	....	....	290500
				<hr/> 1320100 <hr/>
Proposed Sources.				g.p.d.
Castle Cary	....	....	....	148000
Bruton	....	....	....	72000
Pitcombe	....	....	....	48000
Milborne Wick	....	....	....	400200
Penselwood	....	....	....	300000
Thornford	....	....	....	351900
				<hr/> 1320100 <hr/>

The proposals include additional reservoirs, mains and pumping facilities, designed to make good deficiencies wherever they have occurred and to link the various separate systems, thus:—

This work is proposed to be carried out in four stages:—

- (1) Augmentations in the Sparkford area and to Corton Denham from Poyntington.

Improvements in Castle Cary, Penselwood, Redlynch, South Bruham.

Improvements to Pumping Stations at Pitcombe and Bradley Head.

- (2) Supply to Charlton Musgrove.

Main to Redlynch to Bruton.

Reservoirs and supplies to Charlton Horethorne and Wilkinthorp.

- (3) North Cadbury and the Horsington to Wincanton main.
Reservoir at Bruton.

Mains, Charlton Horethorne to Bratton and Yarlinton.

- (4) Main to Castle Cary, Lovington, North Barrow; South Cadbury to Queen Camel. Horsington to Templecombe main.

The scheme does not provide for agricultural supplies to certain of the higher lands, but this point is being looked into.

It is at present under discussion with the Ministry and the order of work will depend on the outcome of this discussion.

POPULATION SUPPLIED BY PIPED WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish	Pop. 1931 Census	Total No. Houses	Est. Pop. 1950	Public Supply piped to. Houses		Public Supply by Standpipe		Private Supply piped to Houses	
				No.	Pop.	No.	Pop.	No.	Pop.
Alford	102	22	75	22	75	—	—	—	—
Ansford	305	161	523	158	513	—	—	1	3
Castle Cary	1664	555	1700	537	1645	—	—	15	46
Bratton	98	35	105	28	84	—	—	7	21
Bruham	378	129	387	116	348	4	10	5	15
Bruton	1553	507	1640	493	1602	—	—	9	30
C. Horethorne	463	149	494	110	362	8	24	29	102
C. Musgrove	377	113	360	101	340	—	—	9	30
C. Pauncefoote	208	61	183	24	72	—	—	35	105
Corton Denham	228	68	212	1	4	—	—	62	192
Cucklington	211	68	207	58	177	—	—	4	13
Henstridge	1040	337	1110	316	1053	10	35	3	11
Holton	233	75	225	62	186	—	—	5	17
Horsington	611	182	606	139	460	—	—	35	118
Lovington	189	56	175	56	175	—	—	—	—
Maperton	125	37	111	26	78	—	—	3	9
Milborne Port	1655	537	1770	531	1750	—	—	5	16
North Barrow	94	27	84	27	84	—	—	—	—
North Cadbury	690	211	650	104	325	—	—	92	270
North Cheriton	178	58	158	55	150	—	—	2	6
Penselwood	285	83	250	69	207	—	—	4	12
Pitcombe	457	116	450	100	390	—	—	12	45
Queen Camel	472	170	527	155	481	—	—	2	6
S. Montague	231	64	192	44	132	—	—	10	30
South Barrow	86	30	80	30	80	—	—	—	—
South Cadbury	294	93	279	3	10	—	—	77	231
Sparkford	380	130	390	123	369	—	—	7	21
Stoke Trister	291	102	306	94	272	—	—	3	9
Templecombe	871	305	1012	289	954	10	33	3	10
Wincanton	2047	684	2266	683	2259	—	—	—	—
Yarlington	149	51	153	43	129	—	—	—	—
	15965	5216	16680	4597	14766	32	102	439	1368

9.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The new works at Wincanton have been completed.

A sewer at Newtown, Milborne Port, has been extended to serve three houses.

Parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems:—
Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Henstridge, Milborne Port, Queen Camel, Sparkford and Wincanton.

No. of conversions to water carriage system during year, 40.

Considerable progress has been made in searching for and curing infiltration into the sewers at Milborne Port.

Future Proposals.

In addition to Templecombe, in respect of which the Engineer has been instructed to prepare a scheme, the villages accepted by the County Council as coming within the first Priority Group are North Cheriton and Sutton Montis.

The estimated costs of the schemes are:—

Templecombe	£50,000
North Cheriton	£7,500
Sutton Montis	£5,500

10.—HOUSING.

Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949.

Applications received	1
No. of houses concerned	1
No. of schemes approved and submitted to the Ministry of Health	1

Houses Required:—

(a) to replace those unfit	630
(b) to abate overcrowding	12
(c) where conditions are unsatisfactory, e.g., two families living in same house, but not included in (a) or (b)	200

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at end of the year 684

Houses occupied that have been condemned as totally unfit, 48.

Many of the occupants of unfit houses have not applied for Council Houses, and the comparatively high rents of Council Houses no doubt have a bearing on this. The building of cheaper (e.g., Terraced) houses would go a long way to relieve this most unsatisfactory position. In the cases of elderly persons without children it seems desirable that they should be encouraged to remain where they are as long as possible so as to reserve the new houses for the larger families.

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Conversions to flats or Dwellings		Temporary such as Army huts etc.
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	56	—	34	—	—	—	
Private Enterprise	11	—	4	—	5	—	
Totals	67	—	38	—	5	—	

Considering the fact that persons of advanced age will, in a few years time, outnumber the young and active, the time is approaching when it will be desirable, if not absolutely necessary, to provide suitable accommodation and services for aged persons, who, although not sufficiently ill to be admitted to Hospital or to Public Assistance Institutions, are unable to look after themselves. I have in mind those who have some small income, but not sufficient to provide themselves with a house and the means to support life in a proper manner. I am informed that this is being done successfully in various ways in some parts of the country, usually on a contributory basis.

CAMPING SITES.

Number of Camping Sites	....	....	....	....	1
Acreage of Site	....	....	....	....	4.100
Maximum number allowed	....	....	....	....	30
Estimated number of campers during the Summer Season	....	....	....	....	25

11.—FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

Total number of outbreaks, Nil.

12.—PUBLIC INQUIRIES.

A Public Inquiry was held on March 28th, 1950, dealing with the Joint Proposals of the Wincanton and Sherborne Councils for the improvement of the water supply.

13.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

(a) Total number of Registered Dairies	....	....	4
(b) Total number of Retailers in the area	....	....	7
(c) Number of Supplementary licences issued to dealers whose dairy is outside your area	....	....	3

Ice Cream.

No. of premises registered for:—

(a) Manufacture and retail	....	....	....	4
(b) Manufacture only	....	....	....	Nil
(c) Retail only	....	....	....	27

No. of samples taken:—

				Hot Mix	Cold Mix
Grade 1	....	....	....	2	—
Grade 2	....	....	....	—	—
Grade 3	....	....	....	2	—
Grade 4	....	....	....	—	—

14.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

(a)	No. in use under Ministry of Food	....	....	1
(b)	No. in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	....	....	—

Total number of animals slaughtered during year under:—

(a) 9864; (b) Nil.

Names of any in use under Ministry of Food:—

South Western Dairies Co., Ltd., Bacon Factory, Bruton.

15.—PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS.

No. in area:—

(a)	Privately owned	....	....	1
(b)	Owned by Local Authority	....	....	Nil

Estimated average number of bathers daily during season:—
25—50.

Water used for filling pool:—

River Brue—Constant flow.

If purification plant installed, type and how operated:—

No. But water treated with Chloride of Lime and Copper Sulphate at intervals.

This Pool is owned by the Governors of King's School, Bruton.

Samples taken: Nil.

16.—RIVER POLLUTION.

Nil.

17.—KNACKERS YARDS.

Number Registered in your District	3
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I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Wincanton,
Somerset.

July, 1951.

T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.
Balsam Gate,
Wincanton,
Somerset.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

The total number of inspections, excluding those by juniors, was 4198, made up as follows:—

Public Health Acts.

Camping Sites	....	....	....	....	....	34
Complaints	....	....	....	....	....	100
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	57
Dangerous Buildings	....	....	....	....	....	14
Infectious Disease	....	....	....	....	....	20
Nuisances (including smoke)	....	....	....	....	....	158
Refuse and Salvage	....	....	....	....	....	339
River pollution	....	....	....	....	....	17
Sewers and Sewage Works	....	....	....	....	....	789
Verminous premises	....	....	....	....	....	4
Water supplies	....	....	....	....	....	176

New Buildings.

Byelaws and Town Planning	....	....	....	....	1164
Building Licensing	....	....	....	....	57

Housing Acts 182

Food and Drugs.

Meat and Food Inspection	....	....	....	....	239
Milk and Dairies	....	....	....	....	67
Inspection of premises	....	....	....	....	232
Factories Act	....	....	....	....	82
Petroleum	....	....	....	....	87
Rodent Control	....	....	....	....	15
Shops Act	....	....	....	....	8
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	357

4198

SEWERAGE.

The main feature of the year has been the difficulty of drying the sludge, the direct result of a season in which two consecutive fine days were a rarity. Only at Sparkford was it possible to dispose of any.

Bruton.

The effluent from the Sewage Works has remained satisfactory. A start has been made on certain necessary items of repair.

These Works are not of modern type and there must be a limit to the amount of sewage which can be dealt with. The question of reconstruction will soon come to the fore, when provision must be made for the addition of sewage from Sunnyhill. In the meantime the drying of sludge gives rise to great difficulty, and improvement is necessary.

Castle Cary

The effluent has remained satisfactory. Consideration has been given to the improvement of detritus disposal. The effluent drain below the Works has twice blocked and proposals for its renewal are in hand.

Henstridge

The new road to the Sewage Works has been completed. With the exception of the bridge, gates, and haulage, all the work has been carried out by the Works Manager.

Milborne Port.

Apart from sludge disposal the Works have functioned satisfactorily.

North Cheriton.

Weather and labour difficulties have prevented the relaying of part of the sewer by direct labour as agreed by the Council. It is proposed to carry this work out as soon as possible.

Sparkford and Queen Camel.

The effluent from these Works has not been wholly satisfactory and this may be because the milk effluent tends to dominate the domestic sewage.

The immediate needs here are provision for the treatment of the sludge drainage, the addition of extra domestic sewage and improvement in the factory waste balancing tanks.

It is important to record that in December floods were higher

than previously recorded here (1936). Sludge floated out of the sludge drying beds, but luckily did not reach the river.

Templecombe.

The engineer has presented a draft plan and certain alterations have been suggested. It has been decided to include Lily Lane in the scheme if practicable.

The river pollution persists and it is to be hoped that progress with the scheme will be more rapid next year than it has been in the past five.

Wincanton.

The final effluent from these Works has been satisfactory. Although completion of the Works was only reported last year, it has been necessary to commence the construction of additional sludge beds. This is being carried out by direct labour, but the work has been delayed by the bad weather.

The workshop, sanitary accommodation and store have been completed.

HOUSING.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1950.

	Traditional			Total	Private Enter- prise
	Parlour Type		Flats		
	P.I.	C.I.	F.I.		
Ansford	—	—	—	—	2
Bratton Seymour	—	—	—	—	1
Bruton	—	—	12	12	—
Castle Cary	—	4	—	4	—
Charlton Musgrove	—	—	—	—	1
Milborne Port	2	—	6	8	1
North Cheriton	—	—	—	—	2
Templecombe	—	—	—	—	2
Wincanton	—	8	24	32	2
	2	12	42	56	11

Council Houses

At the beginning of the year there were forty-four men engaged on thirty-two houses as against sixty-two men on thirty-four houses at the end.

The number completed compares reasonably with the index number of sixty-three, but it is as important as ever to remember that the number in future allocations is likely to depend almost wholly on the number completed.

At the end of the year six houses of the 1949 programme and thirty-two of the 1950 programme, were not completed—indeed four were not even commenced.

To that extent therefore the Council has not built up to the number allocated.

Conversions.

By arrangement with the Sturminster Rural District Council nineteen units of housing accommodation have been taken over at Priors Down.

Requisitioning

The number of premises under requisition for housing purposes at the end of the year was 40.

Licences.

The number of unfit houses under licence for temporary occupation at the end of the year was 37.

Housing Survey.

Progress on the Housing survey has been slow—only 30 houses having been recorded. The following are the results to date:—

	Total, 1/1/1950	Hen- stridge	Maperton	Milborne Port	Temple- combe	Total, 31/12/50
£16 and under	3324					3324
Dealt with in earlier programme	104					104
No. to be inspected	3012					3012
No. fully inspected	1319	3	1	5	6	1334
Adequate records	165					165
Fit in all respects	53				1	54
Sec. 9 (Minor Defects)	211	1		3		215
(Serious Defects)	113	2	1	1	1	118
(Reconstruction)	71			1	4	76
Low Standard Deferment	203					203
Sec. 11/12 (Reconstruction)	211					211
(Irreparable)	304					304
Sec. 25 (Clearance)	318					318
Replacement need	622					622
Suitable for acquisition	27					27

Standards of Fitness.

The continued housing shortages have forced the Council to depart from the high standards adopted before the war. It has been obvious for some time that many sub-standard houses must continue in use for many years and a temporary reduction in standards, if operated reasonably, does no more than bring reality into the situation.

Such a reduction is not without its dangers and it ought not to mean the waste of scarce material on houses which are really worn out.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Sections 9, 11, 12 and 25.

Two undertakings not to use have been cancelled.

Two Demolition orders were made, owing to the failure of owners to comply with undertakings not to use.

Three Notices under Section 11 have been served.

In two cases (one brought forward from last year) action was suspended; a new owner having put forward proposals judged satisfactory by the Council.

In two cases (one brought forward from last year) undertakings not to use were accepted.

Informal Action.

Fifty houses have been made fit.

Overcrowding.

Cases outstanding, January 1st, 1950	....	....	15
Cases discovered during 1950	....	....	3
			<hr/>
			18
Abated during 1950	....	....	4
			<hr/>
Cases outstanding at 31st December, 1950		....	14
			<hr/>

Verminous Premises.

Four cases of flea infestation have been discovered.

Moveable Dwellings.

Five new licences have been issued.
Three licences have been renewed.

Notifiable Disease.

Disinfection has been carried out in eleven cases.

HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

The House Refuse and Salvage scheme continues to operate satisfactorily by direct labour. Two 10 cwt. ??? Side-loading Dennis Vehicles are used.

Weekly collections are made in Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port and Wincanton, involving an estimated population of 7,000.

The remainder of the district, with the exception of a few out-lying and isolated premises, is covered each fortnight.

Thirty-one parishes are covered by routine collections. The isolated premises are served monthly or by special arrangement.

Trade refuse is collected in conjunction with the above. Annual charges are made.

The two refuse dumps used are those at Wincanton and Bowden.

No progress has been made in the purchase of the site for the Central Depot.

The following Table gives the Salvage results for the past five years.

	Tons					£ s.				
	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Paper	137.39	66.83	91.78	85.98	78.70	700.55	470.8	612.15	571.0	523.4
Ferrous Metals	11.90	12.05	4.85	6.32	31.56	19.75	23.6	12.50	14.75	44.05
Non-Ferrous Metals	—	—	—	—	0.55	—	—	—	—	12.65
Textiles	3.23	8.04	3.85	2.09	6.85	58.93	125.8	69.25	36.5	54.45
Bottles	—	—	—	—	0.06	—	—	—	—	1.0
Bones	1.95	3.93	3.79	3.79	6.33	11.28	22.55	22.0	21.75	34.45
Tinfoil	—	—	0.11	—	—	—	—	1.25	—	—
	154.47	90.85	104.38	98.18	124.05	790.51	642.75	717.15	644.00	670.00

SANITARY SURVEYS.

Sanitary Surveys have been made in Horsington, North Cheriton, and Templecombe. The following detail may be of interest.

	Horsington	%	N. Cheriton	%	Templecombe	%
Population	606		158		1012	
No. of Houses	172		57		303	
No. with inside sinks	126	73	51	90	277	91
No. with Baths	78	45	29	51	175	58
No. with Water Closets	70	41	33	58	239	79
No. with Water Supply laid on	151	88	56	99	293	98
No. connected to Public Sewer			31	54	212	70

Sanitary Accommodation.

During the year there have been forty conversions of Pail Closets to Water Closets.

Public Conveniences have been provided at Bruton, Castle Cary and Wincanton.

A second Public convenience is under construction at Churchfield, Wincanton, designed to accommodate the many charabancs which stop at the principal car park.

Plans are well advanced towards the provision of one at The Cross, Milborne Port. This, it is hoped, will be completed during the summer of 1951.

MILK SUPPLIES.

The results of samples taken from distributors are:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

No. of samples taken	....	....	....	....	5
Satisfactory .....	....	....	....	....	3
Unsatisfactory .....	....	....	....	....	2

FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat.

All carcasses of pigs slaughtered at the Bruton Bacon Factory, continue to be examined.

The results are set out in the following table:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	9865
No. Inspected					9864½
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>					
Whole carcases condemned					4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					1416
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis					14.35
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcases condemned					76
Carcases of which some par or organ was condemned					787
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis					8.75

These figures are to a small extent estimated as it is impracticable to identify every organ with the carcase.

Full records are kept of the incidence of disease in the various organs, etc.

The following table gives the principal details:—

	Tuberculosis	Other diseases
Carcases	76	4
Heads	779	6
Plucks	229	306
Livers	16	489
Lungs	12	962
Miscellaneous	24	119

Miscellaneous Foods.

The following table gives particulars of the other foods condemned.

At Butcher's Shops.

- 78 lbs. Canned Corned Beef.
- 18¾ lbs. Canned Corned Mutton.
- 120½ lbs. Imported Beef.
- 155¼ lbs. Home-Killed Beef.
- 13 lbs. Home-Killed Pork.

Tinned Foods.

743 lbs. have been condemned and destroyed.

Other foods condemned, included:—

222½ lbs. Milk Powder
72 Fish Cakes.
66 Meat Pies
63 Eggs.
5 Stones Cod Fillets.

Food and Drug Act, 1938. Sections 13 and 14.

Considerable progress has been made in obtaining compliance with the provisions of this Act.

Although there were difficulties at times, gentle but persistent persuasion has succeeded in obtaining the necessary standards at many of these premises.

It is intended to continue to press this work until the whole district is adequately covered—although this must take longer than desirable because of the licensing difficulties.

The Council have adopted Food Byelaws, based on the Ministry Model.

So far no great difficulties have been encountered and no prosecutions have been necessary.

Premises where food is prepared.

The number registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is 48.

Model Byelaws Series I (Ministry of Food).

These Byelaws were adopted by the Council on 17.5.50, and became operative on 31.7.50.

There was a variation from the Model, viz. Deletion of brackets of Byelaw 6 (a) (II)

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Council have decided to vary their procedure in regard to rodent control.

They will continue to make no charge for operations at dwelling houses, but will make a charge at business premises. These charges will be based on the actual cost of the work carried out.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act has altered the position in regard to farms and here the Council will encourage action by the

County Agricultural Executive Committee, but will operate themselves, wherever this action is likely to be more convenient or satisfactory.

The results are given in the following table:—

	<i>Infestations Treated</i>	<i>Bait</i>	<i>Poison</i>	<i>Est. Kill</i>	<i>Inf. Cleared</i>	<i>Ref. to C.A.E.C.</i>
Reservoir	1	Bread	Arsenic	220	—	—
Major	43	Mash	or	3205	39	6
Minor	80	or	Zinc	1026	71	—
Sewers	8	Sausage	Phosphide	—	3	—
Tips	6	Rusk				

The sewers and dumps have been treated in accordance with the Ministry recommendations

BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING.

Byelaws.

The following tables summarize the action taken during the year:—

In abeyance at 31st, December, 1949	7	
New Applications	212	
	<hr/>	219
Approved	188	
Refused	3	
Withdrawn	5	
	<hr/>	196
In abeyance at 31st December, 1950		23

Town Planning.

	Bt. Fwd. 1st Jan. 1950	New Appli- cations	Total	No. Ap- proved	No. Refs.	No. With- drawn	Not Yet Cat. A.,B. or C	In Com- plete	No Decis- ion
Cat. A	9	72	81	69	4	3	—	—	5
Cat. B.	17	75	92	53	8	—	—	—	31
Cat. C.	—	6	6	6	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	13	13	—	—	—	6	7	—
	26	166	192	128	12	3	6	7	36

BUILDING LICENSING.

The following table summarises the action taken:—

Applications brought forward 1/1/50	....	41	
Applications received 1/1/50 to 31/12/50	....	75	
		—	116

No. of licences issued:—

New Houses	....	8
Supplementary to complete new houses		—
Additional Units	....	4
Housing Repairs	....	32

Licences dealt with other than by issue:—

Sent to Ministry of Works	....	14
Refused	....	1
Withdrawn	....	14

Carried forward to January, 1951:—

Application to build new houses	31	
Application for repairs, etc.	12	
	——	43
		—— 116

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. G. GRAY.

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